

## **Abstract**

The diploma thesis **Characteristics of the criminal career and chronic offender of a violent crime** is divided into two parts: theoretical and empirical part. The theoretical part deals with risk factors that can lead to criminal career, psychological characteristics of chronic offenders and offenders of violent crime. Finally, theoretical part mentioned the concept of criminal careers with basic elements: participation, frequency, duration, starts a criminal career, the interval between of the offenses, the remaining length and finishing of the criminal career, specialization or universality, severity and escalation, accomplice to criminal career. The theoretical part also summarizes the basic statistics on the crime of chronic offender.

The empirical part is the quantitative retrospective study of the forensic expertises in the field of clinical psychology. The main task of the thesis focused on the assessment of escalation – increased severity of crimes during individual criminal career of the chronic offender of violent crime. The basic hypothesis is: The length of the first and last imprisonment sentence is not differing. In terms of qualitative description of escalation of violent crime, I examined the first and last type of aggression, the first and last degree of violence and the first and last used weapon.

The empirical part created new workload thanks to data processing. I searched for a possible link between criminal career, individual crimes, the psychological characteristics of personality of chronic offender and socio-demographic data.

**Keywords:** psychology, criminal career, recidivism, chronic offender, violence, aggression.